

Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station ~~(1)~~ that is suitable for contactless communication with transponders and with further communication stations and that has first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ designed to handle a station/transponder protocol, with the aid of which first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ communication can be effected between the communication station ~~(1)~~ and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder protocol, and that has second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ designed to handle a station/station protocol that differs from the station/transponder protocol in respect of at least one protocol parameter, with the aid of which second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ communication can be effected between the communication station ~~(1)~~ and at least one further communication station while observing the station/station protocol.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ have energy-supply signal generating means ~~(16)~~ that are designed to generate an energy-supply signal ~~(BURST)~~ each time the handling of the station/transponder protocol starts, and wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ have synchronizing-signal generating means ~~(22)~~ that are designed to generate a synchronizing signal ~~(SYNC)~~ each time the handling of the station/station protocol starts.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ are designed to handle a station/station protocol that is arranged with a view to causing only the least possible energy consumption at the communication station ~~(1)~~ when communicating with at least one further communication station.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ are designed to handle a station/transponder protocol that is arranged with a view to communication with a large number of transponders, and wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~

are arranged with a view to establishing a communication connection to at least one further communication station as quickly as possible.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ for a communication station that is suitable for contactless communication with transponders and with further communication stations, which integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ has first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ designed to handle a station/transponder protocol, with the aid of which first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ communication can be effected between the communication station ~~(1)~~ and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder protocol, and which integrated circuit ~~(1)~~ has second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ designed to handle a station/station protocol that differs from the station/transponder protocol in respect of at least one protocol parameter, with the aid of which second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ communication can be effected between the communication station ~~(1)~~ and at least one protocol further communication station while observing the station/station protocol.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ have energy-supply signal generating means ~~(16)~~ that are designed to generate an energy-supply signal ~~(BURST)~~ each time the handling of the station/transponder protocol starts, and wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ have synchronizing-signal generating means ~~(22)~~ that are designed to generate a synchronizing signal ~~(SYNC)~~ each time the handling of the station/station protocol starts.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ are designed to handle a station/station protocol that is arranged with a view to causing only the least possible energy consumption at the communication station ~~(1)~~ when communicating with at least one further communication station.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first protocol-executing means ~~(12)~~ are designed to handle a

station/transponder protocol that is arranged with a view to communication with a large number of transponders, and wherein the second protocol-executing means ~~(13)~~ are arranged with a view to establishing a communication connection to at least one further communication station as quickly as possible.